



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 374 Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages - Cigar Lounge License PG 303-24

UNFAVORABLE

House Economic Matters Committee February 19, 2024

Greetings, and thank you Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the committee.

This bill rolls back and undermines clean indoor air protections that were enacted in Maryland through years of concerted efforts by a broad coalition of health advocates working on behalf Maryland citizens.

Second-hand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection agency as a Class A human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. This finding has been confirmed by the U.S. Surgeon General.

Children, pregnant persons and those with health conditions such as asthma, are at disproportionate risk.

Employees, including potentially pregnant employees, would not be able to avoid exposure to second-hand smoke in their workplace short of quitting their jobs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), secondhand smoke causes nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the United States among adults who do not smoke.

Healthy individuals are susceptible to discomfort and health consequences of second-hand smoke. Some individuals are highly intolerant to second hand smoke and experience a great deal of discomfort.

We urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully,
Joseph A. Adams, MD, FASAM
Board certified in addiction medicine and internal medicine